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Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office

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DEC 29 1997

V. H. Reis, Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs, DOE/HQ (DP-1) FORS
P. N. Brush, Acting Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health,
DOE/HQ (EH-1) FORS

STATUS REPORT ON SECRETARIAL INITIATIVES ON SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Secretary of Energy proposed, in two memoranda, several initiatives in response to the May 14, 1997, explosion at Hanford. Those initiatives provide for improvement in safety, emergency management, and chemical storage assessment programs. This office has acted on these initiatives, ensuring that hazards are identified; characterized and managed; and that notifications are made quickly and appropriately in the event of an accident or incident.

The enclosed table summarizes our efforts to address the initiatives through an improved integrated process in safety and emergency management. The information identifies the actions taken and those that are in progress. More detailed information is available on specific actions, should that information be required.

We will continue to track progress on these safety and emergency management initiatives and provide periodic status reports to the appropriate offices at DOE/HQ. While several actions are underway, it is my position that systems are in place; we are prepared to respond in an appropriate and timely manner, and that any emergency at DOE/NV facilities would be promptly and appropriately addressed. If you have any questions regarding our response to the initiatives, please contact Gary B. Snodgrass (702) 295-1094 or John K. Robson (702) 295-5002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Johnson", followed by a long horizontal line.

G. W. Johnson
Manager

EMD:GBS-98052
EMT

Enclosures:
As stated

DEC 29 1997


cc:

F. F. Peña, DOE/HQ (S-1) FORS, w/o encl

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L. A. Lee, DOE/HQ (DP-45) GTN, w/encl

The Secretarial Initiatives letters of August 4, 1997 and August 27, 1997 provide for several actions by field organizations. The following table identified distinct actions and a status of each.

Action	Due Date	Status
Reassess Chemical and Radiological Vulnerabilities	December 4, 1997	The reassessment of vulnerabilities has been accomplished for the locations of highest risk. The assessment is described in the enclosed report.
Scrutinize Storage of Chemicals and Evaluate Hazards	December 31, 1997	DOE/NV has directed a review of chemical and radiological storage. The Prime Contractor and tenant organizations have conducted a review and have identified storage and are implementing a program to re-evaluate hazards and dispose of the wastes according to regulations.
Reevaluate ORPS	December 31, 1997	ORPS was reassessed in August 1997. As a result of the reassessment, the procedures for reporting were revised and will be finalized and distributed by December 31, 1997.

Action	Due Date	Status
Reevaluate Lessons Learned Programs	December 31, 1997	The Lessons Learned program at DOE/NV has been reviewed and found to need improvement. A task group has been formed to make recommendations on restructuring the Lessons Learned program at DOE/NV.
Review EALs, and training, and seek comments from local governments on notification procedures	October 10, 1997	Hazards Assessments were reviewed and the accuracy of EALs was verified in September 1997. Training programs were reviewed, and initial training was provided to federal staff and contractor management. DOE/NV has begun coordination with Esmerelda and Clark Counties, Nevada, and will meet with Nye and Lincoln counties early in 1998.
Assess Staff competence in identifying hazards	December 31, 1997	A review of federal staff experience and training has been accomplished. Training plans have been revised and training scheduled where necessary.
Status of Training Drills in Annual Report to OEM (ERAP)	November 30, 1997	The ERAP has been sent to OEM. It includes a current status of the DOE/NV Training and Drill program.
Train Key Personnel in EM Decisionmaking	October 26, 1997	Training was conducted by OEM on October 29, 1997